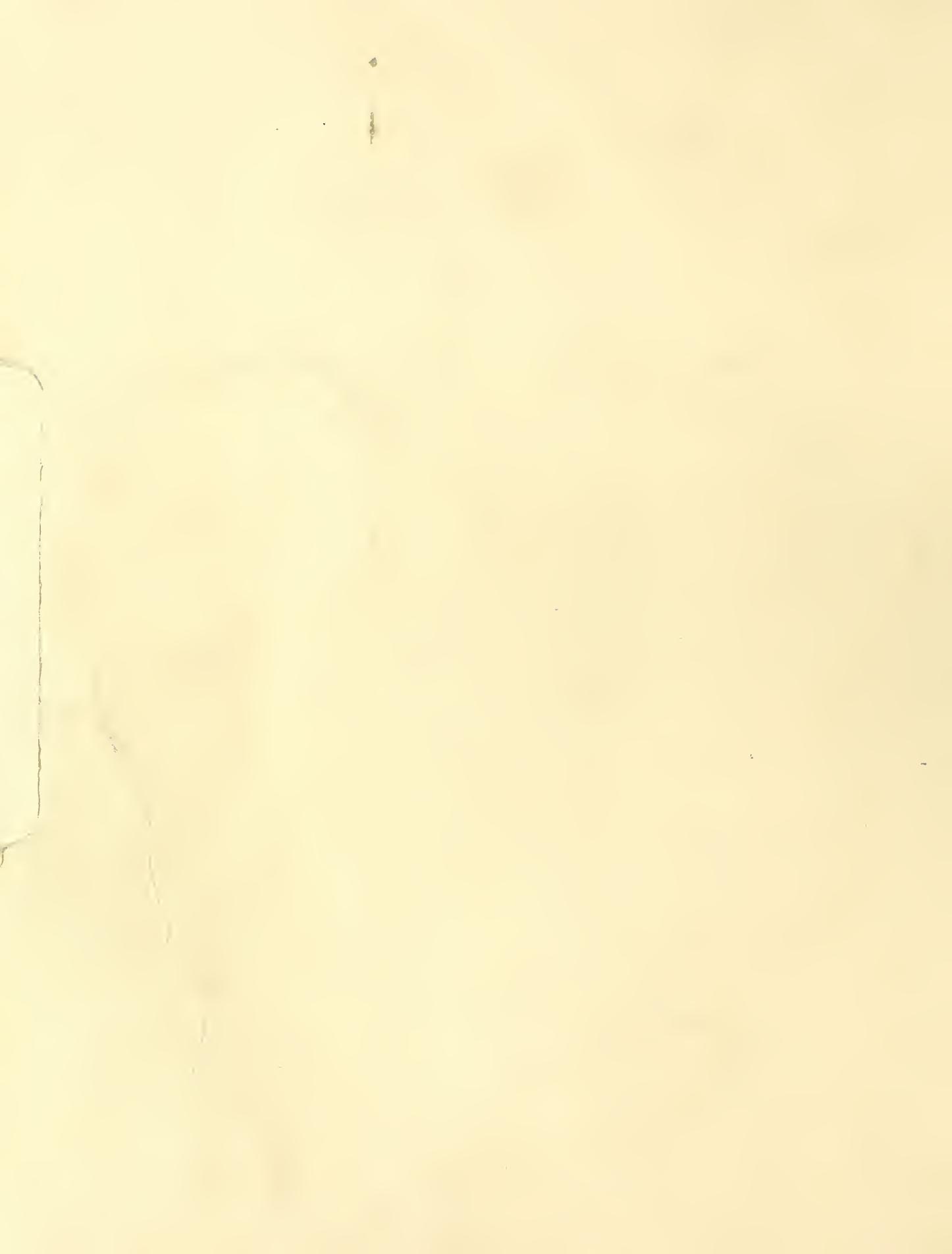


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Vegetable Situation

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Economics, Statistics,
and Cooperatives Service

TVS-207

U.S. Department of
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February
1978



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Approved by
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Outlook and Situation Board
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SUMMARY

More Fresh and Processed Vegetables This Winter

Of the 13 winter *vegetables for fresh market*, total domestic supplies available for the winter quarter are indicated to be about a fifth larger than a year earlier, as twenty-one percent more acreage will be available for harvest this season. Increases are expected for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, green peppers, spinach and tomatoes. There will be slightly less cauliflower and lettuce. Comparisons with a year earlier have less significance this time as the 1977 winter acreage of some crops—tomatoes, peppers, snap beans, eggplant, and sweet corn—was drastically reduced as a result of Florida's three successive days of hard freeze in mid-January 1977.

So far this season, some minor frost damage has affected recent plantings of these tender crops grown in southern districts of Florida. Supplies could be shortened later, but certainly not to the same extent as a year earlier. Also, recent heavy rains in California have disrupted harvest of lettuce, celery, and carrots, and briefly brought on record high prices for lettuce.

Imports of tender vegetables (tomatoes being the most important) have been well ahead of a year earlier, but principal volume is still to come. This season's Mexican tomato acreage is up substantially from last year and volume shipments to the United States began arriving the last half of January. However, exports to the United States are expected to hold moderately below last year's record. There are also larger acreages of cucumbers, peppers, and eggplant.

For the rest of this winter, barring further freeze damage, fresh market vegetable prices to growers probably will rise above December levels, but hold well below last year's record high.

Total supplies of *processed vegetables* are moderately larger than a year earlier. In brief, supplies of tomatoes, tomato products, and corn are generous, while peas, lima beans, beets, and sauerkraut are adequate. Canned snap beans are in relatively

light supply. January 1 stocks of frozen vegetables were moderately larger than a year earlier.

The price outlook for processed vegetables during the first half of 1978 is probably one of little change from current levels, as prices for most items have already adjusted to the 1977/78 market picture. Tomato prices will hold relatively low until heavy stocks are worked off the last half of this year. Canned corn, canned peas, and frozen broccoli are the other processed items now at bargain levels. Prices for green beans and beets are firm to strong.

At this time, the substantial improvement in water supplies in California and other Western States indicates that vegetable crop acreages in 1978 will not be affected by any lack of water. However, market price conditions suggest that smaller acreages will be devoted to processing crops in 1978.

Even though fall potato production in 1977 was 1 percent below the year-earlier record, supplies were still heavy enough to depress prices, especially for eastern and midwestern growers. The large export market to Europe was not available this season, and domestic demand for dehydrated products has been sluggish. The only bright prospect, and it is only an indirect influence on grower

prices, is the sustained demand for frozen potatoes especially for Grade A longs. The U.S. 4th quarter potato price received by growers for all uses was \$3.17 per cwt., up only slightly from \$3.12 for the same period of 1976, but well below 1974 or 1975.

U.S. stocks of potatoes remaining to be sold as of January 1 totaled 176 million cwt., the largest quantity ever recorded for this date. Consequently, prices to growers are not expected to show much improvement the rest of the storage season. Prices in the East likely will continue to average below a year earlier. However, in the West the grower price situation may continue to look a little better than last year. Stocks in the Western States were 7 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Relatively low prices for 1977 crop potatoes may induce growers to cut 1978 plantings. For example, a cut of approximately 4 to 5 percent, with yields the same as in 1977, would produce a tonnage of 285 to 290 million cwt. which would be in balance with projected needs at slightly higher prices to growers. A larger acreage cut would boost prices even more.

Dry bean prices to growers advanced sharply this past fall, and export demand has been good enough to maintain them at these higher levels. Some increase in 1978 plantings is likely.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK

FRESH VEGETABLES

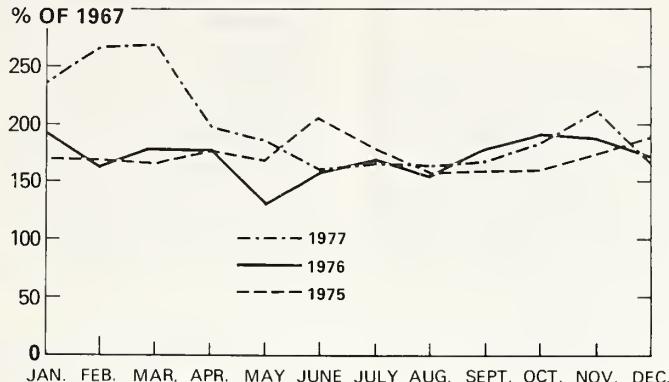
Of the 13 winter vegetables for fresh market, total domestic supplies available for the winter quarter are indicated to be about a fifth larger than a year earlier, as 21 percent more acreage was for harvest this season. Increases are expected for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, green peppers, spinach, and tomatoes. There will be slightly less cauliflower and lettuce. Comparison with a year earlier have less significance this time as the 1977 winter acreage of some crops—tomatoes, peppers, snap beans, eggplant, and sweet corn—was drastically reduced as a result of Florida's three successive days of hard freeze in mid-January 1977. For February through early April that year, nearly all supplies of tender vegetables came from Mexican sources. Thus far this year, only minor frost damage affected these crops grown in southern districts of Florida. Supplies will likely be shortened later though not to the same extent as a year earlier. Heavy rains in California have disrupted normal harvest activity in lettuce, celery, and carrots.

So far this season, imports of tender vegetable crops have been well ahead of a year earlier. Mexican tomato acreage planted this season is up substantially from last year, and volume shipments to the United States began arriving the last half of January. Additional acreage of peppers, cucumbers, and eggplant is available this year too. But, barring any further adverse weather or disease, indications are that imports from Mexico will probably be moderately below last year's levels.

The 1977 index of prices received by growers stood at 198 (1967=100), averaging 16 percent or 28 points higher than 1976. Due to the Florida freeze and reduced vegetable shipments from Texas in the early part of the year, prices were sharply higher the first half of the year. Increased supplies in late spring, summer, and fall pushed prices down so that for the second half of 1977, fresh market prices to growers were very close to those of a year earlier.

For the rest of this winter, barring further freeze damage, fresh market vegetable prices to growers will probably rise above December levels, but hold well below last year's record high. Retail vegetable

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES* INDEX PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

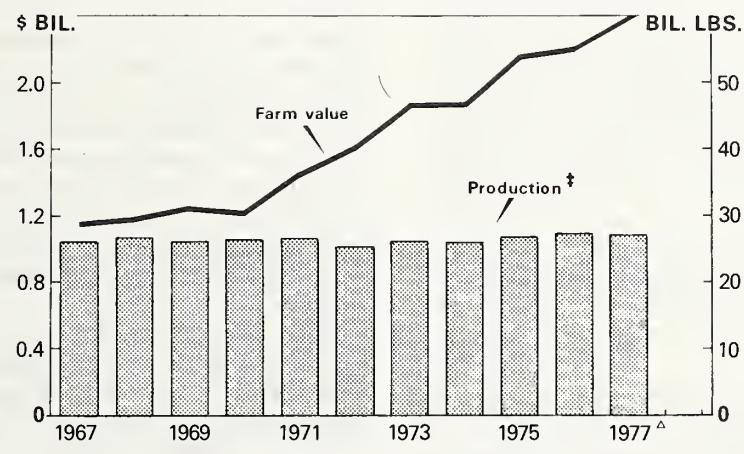


*FOR FRESH MARKET.

USDA

NEG ESCS 2376-78 (2)

FARM VALUE AND PRODUCTION OF FRESH VEGETABLES*



* INCLUDES MELONS

△ ESTIMATE

† INCLUDES ESTIMATE OF OTHER COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION (MINOR STATES).

USDA

NEG. ESCS 511-78 (2)

prices during 1977 followed grower price trends, although fluctuating less. For the fourth quarter, the index of retail fresh vegetable prices was 184 (1967=100), or 3 percent more than the comparable quarter a year earlier. First quarter 1978 prices may advance but hold well below the first quarter 1977 figures.

1977 Recap Fresh Vegetable Volume Changed Little

Despite a disastrous Florida freeze, and a drought in much of the West, especially in Cali-

fornia, the 1977 production of 22 major vegetable and melon crops in the United States was 246.2 million cwt., practically the same as a year earlier. It turned out that way because summer and fall production was nearly large enough to offset the 5-million-cwt. shortfall in the winter quarter. This figure, which includes some asparagus, broccoli, carrots, and cauliflower for processing, brought the total farm value to \$2.4 billion, 7 percent more than a year earlier.

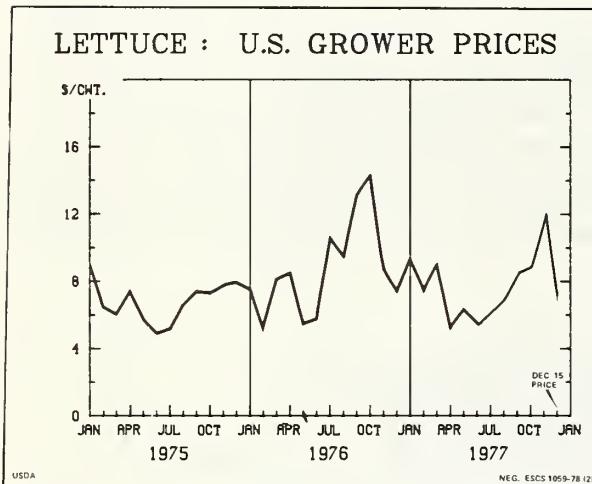
In addition to domestic vegetable production, imports, mostly from Mexico, were substantially larger during calendar year 1977, and were at

record levels. The total volume came to about 1.6 billion pounds, roughly 12-15 percent more than a year earlier. As usual, tomatoes were the most important single item, accounting for about half of all fresh vegetable imports.

After allowing for a slight population increase, per capita consumption of vegetables fell slightly in 1977, dropping approximately 1½ pounds to the 98.0-98.5-pound range. Melon consumption actually gained slightly, but not enough to be offsetting—up to 21 pounds from 20.6 a year earlier. Nonetheless, it was surprising that vegetable supplies were as well maintained, in view of the distortion in supply which marked so much of the past year.

Prospects for Leading Items

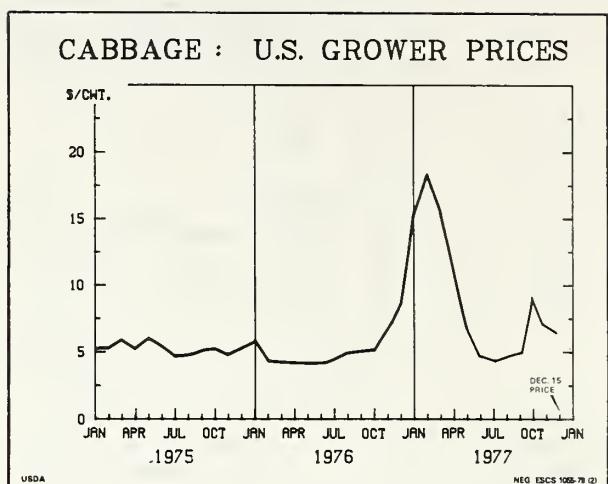
Lettuce



Winter lettuce acreage for 1978 is one percent below that of a year earlier.

Lettuce harvesting in the Imperial Valley of California which accounts for two-thirds of U.S. winter production gained momentum during January and will continue heavy through the winter quarter. The Arizona lettuce crop matured ahead of schedule with harvesting in full swing during the early part of January. Both quality and yields are good and harvesting is expected to continue in volume throughout the winter quarter. Heavy rains during much of January interrupted the lettuce harvest in the Imperial Valley in California and Arizona's Yuma Valley. Prices advanced sharply as field activity came to a standstill with prices rising briefly as high as \$10 per carton of 24 head lettuce. Producers are concerned about damage to newly planted fields in districts that normally supply lettuce from March through May and if damage turns out to be extensive, then March and April prices will average higher than a year earlier.

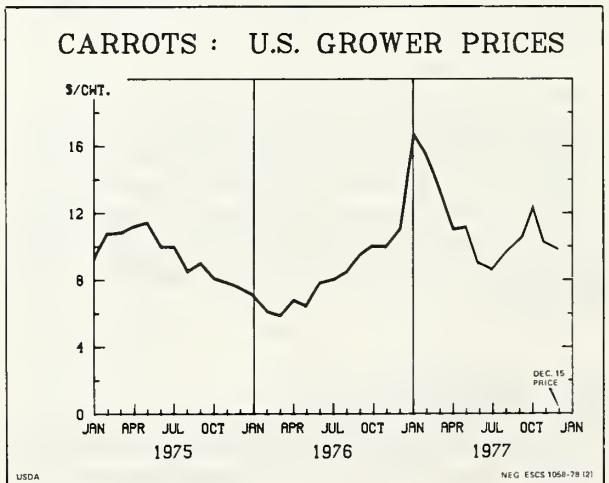
Cabbage



At 20,700 acres, prospective cabbage acreage during the 1978 winter quarter is 19 percent more than last year. With average yields, this acreage is expected to provide 4.7 million cwt. or 12 percent more than in 1977. California's cabbage crop is progressing satisfactorily. Supplies will be available throughout the winter quarter from South Coast and Desert areas. In Florida, cabbage harvest is well underway with supplies expected to increase as the season progresses. Quality has been generally good, but there are some problems from disease. New York stocks of stored cabbage, at 950,000 cwt., were two-thirds more than a year earlier.

With greater supplies in prospect this winter, grower prices as of mid-January were only about one-third those of a year ago in all producing regions.

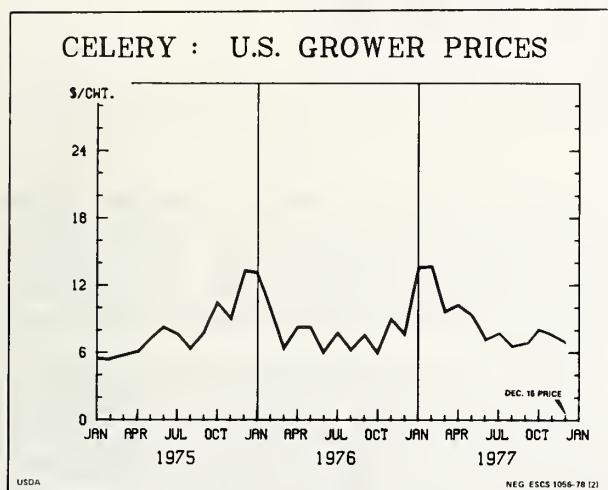
Carrots



About 8 percent more carrot acreage will be available for harvest in the 1978 winter quarter. In Arizona, good quality and normal yields are being reported for early harvested fields. Peak harvest in the Desert area of California will be reached in March while harvest in the Kern district is expected to taper off in February and March from its January peak. Assuming historic yields, supplies of carrots are likely to be 10 percent more than in 1977. Texas, a major producer, expects to harvest 15 percent more acreage this year.

Carrot prices in mid-January were at the \$5.00 level for 48 1-pound bags, compared to \$8.50 a year earlier.

Celery



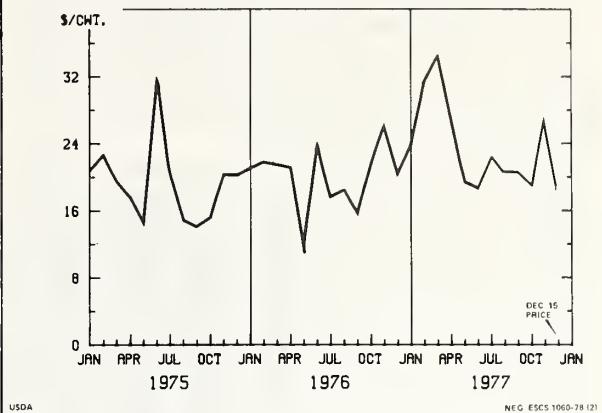
Celery acreage for harvest during 1978's winter quarter is 18 percent more than a year earlier. With historic yields, a 23-percent greater production is expected than in 1977. Currently in Florida, January yields were running below the normal, and heavy stripping has been necessary in some fields because of leaf miners. However, size and quality are expected to improve as the season progresses. The Everglades area is the major supplier of winter celery from Florida. In California, winter celery harvest is active from the South Coast.

Heavy rains in California during the second week in January interrupted harvest operations. California prices in mid-January at \$5.45 per crate compared with \$7.50 a year earlier. Florida prices were running at \$5.20 per crate, well below last year.

Tomatoes

Florida tomato acreage for harvest during the 1978 winter quarter is placed at 14,500 acres compared with 7,300 acres harvested during the winter

TOMATOES : U.S. GROWER PRICES

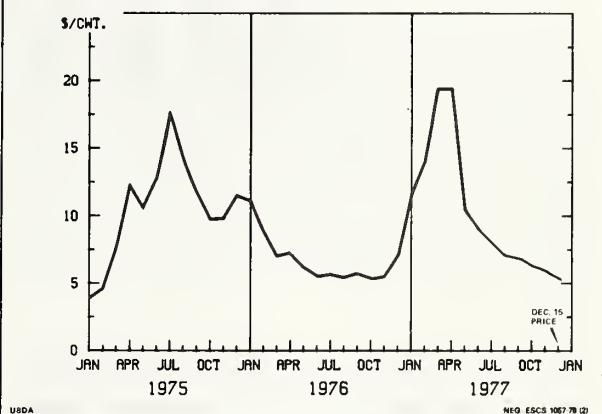


quarter last year. Based on average yield, production is expected to total 3.3 million cwt., compared with a disastrously low 1.1 million cwt. a year earlier. There has been some minor frost damage to young growing plants this season. This may reduce output for part of the winter season, but nothing like 1977 has taken place yet. Barring any further freeze damage, the usual volume is expected to come from Immokalee, Ft. Pierce-Pompano, and Dade County areas during the 1978 winter quarter.

During much of January, f.o.b. prices were running above year-earlier levels, but winter tomato prices are expected to average less than the record high prices of a year earlier.

Onions

ONIONS : U.S. GROWER PRICES



The 1977 production of storage crop onions excluding California was 3 percent smaller than in 1976. Onion stocks held in common and cold stor-

age as of January 1, 1978 at 5.4 million cwt. were 4 percent more than a year earlier.

Average monthly prices for all sales made by growers ranged from a high of \$19.40 in April to a low of \$5.54 in December. Mid-January f.o.b. prices were still relatively weak; yellow Spanish mediums from Western Idaho-Oregon were only \$1.63 per 50-pound sack. Large were \$2.46.

The 1978 spring crop onion acreage at 32,500 acres is 31 percent above 1977. In Texas, direct seeding began in the lower Rio Grande Valley in early September with some replanting necessary after heavy rains later that month. Growing conditions since then have been favorable. Initial harvest is expected to begin in late February a little earlier than usual, with supplies remaining light until sometime after early March. Harvest in other Texas areas is expected to begin in mid-April.

Arizona's dry onion crop has had ideal growing conditions thus far. Harvest is expected in early May. In California the spring crop harvest will start in the Desert areas in April. The California crop is making good growth in the Desert, Fresno, and Stockton areas. Damage to the spring crop was reported in the Bakersfield area from strong winds on December 21.

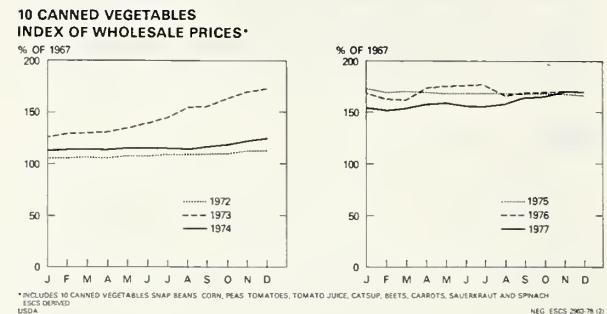
Barring adverse weather and diseases, prospects for favorable grower prices do not appear too promising. The 1978 spring crop onion acreage is only 2 percent less than in the spring of 1976 which was the highest in recent years. This, coupled with heavy existing storage stocks, is going to exert considerable downward pressure on an already depressed market.

PROCESSED VEGETABLES

The 1977 combined pack of canned and frozen vegetables turned out substantially larger than a year earlier, and it came close to the record set in 1975. When more complete 1977 pack data are published, a large pack of frozen vegetables likely will be confirmed; meanwhile, it appears that canned vegetable tonnage will be moderately less than the record set two years ago. When carryovers are added to these packs, total supplies of processed vegetables are moderately larger than a year earlier.

Considering canned vegetables by themselves, the pack of 10 leading items (including canned tomatoes and tomato juice, but excluding catsup, paste, and sauce) was about 5 to 6 percent more than 1976. Even though the total carryover into the 1977/78 season was reduced, total supplies of canned vegetables at the beginning of the current sales season were slightly larger than last year. In

addition, the total supply of tomato concentrates is heavy. Canned vegetable stocks per capita on January 1 have been estimated at about 40.5 pounds, a figure well below the burdensome quantities of 1969 and 1976, but nonetheless far more generous than most other recent seasons (see chart). In brief, supplies of tomatoes, tomato products, and corn are plentiful, while peas, lima beans, beets, and sauerkraut are adequate. Canned snap beans are in relatively light supply.



Wholesale prices for canned vegetables in late 1977 were averaging slightly less than a year earlier, with tomato products pulling down the ESCS index for December 1977 to 166.1. This compares with 170.3 (1967=100) for the same month a year earlier.

Frozen vegetable packs in 1977 were generally larger, as the industry rebuilt depleted stocks. January 1 stocks of all frozen vegetables were 1.6 billion pounds, 13 percent more than for the same date a year earlier. Per capita stocks of frozen vegetables, excluding potatoes, were 7.6 pounds per person, about a tenth more than last year.

The price outlook for processed vegetables in the first half of 1978 is probably one of little change as prices for most items have already adjusted to the 1977/78 market picture. Tomato prices will hold relatively low until the heavy stocks are worked off the last half of this year. Canned corn, canned peas, and frozen broccoli are the other processed items at bargain levels. Prices for green beans and beets are firm to strong. At this time, the substantial improvement in water supplies in California and other Western States suggests that vegetable crop acreage in 1978 will not be affected by this factor. However, market price conditions are setting the stage for smaller acreages to be devoted to processing crops in 1978.

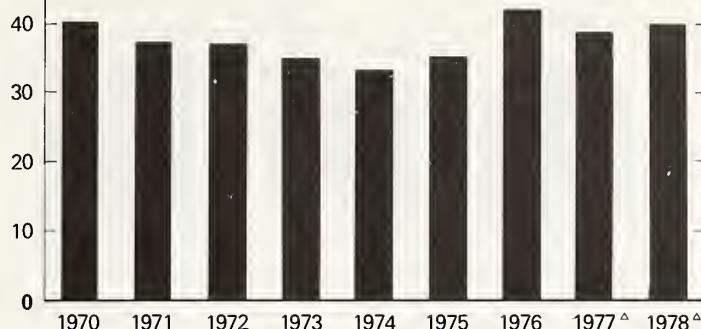
1977 Recap More Raw Tonnage in 1977

The Crop Reporting Board recently reported that the production of 13 processed vegetables rose to 13.3 million tons last year. This was the second

CANNED VEGETABLES*

January 1, Stocks per Capita

POUNDS



*EXCLUDES POTATOES AND SWEETPOTATOES.

[△]ESTIMATED.

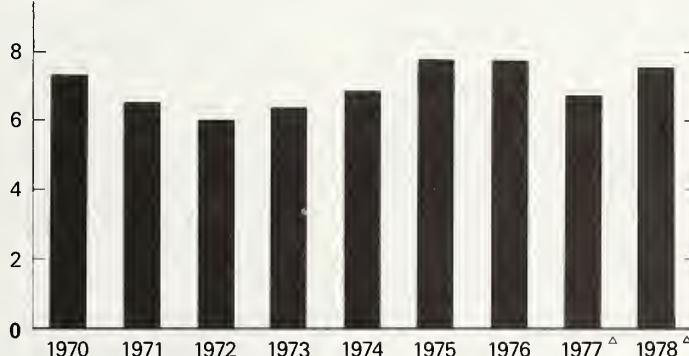
USDA

NEG ESCS 9043-78(2)

FROZEN VEGETABLES*

January 1, Stocks per Capita

POUNDS

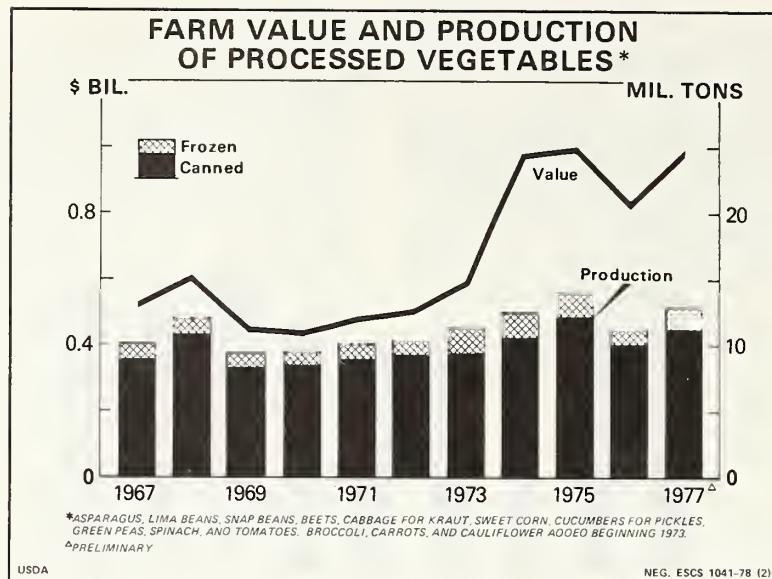


*EXCLUDES FROZEN POTATO PRODUCTS.

[△]ESTIMATED.

USDA

NEG. ESCS 8599-78(2)



largest output on record, and it compares with 11.6 million tons in 1976 and 14.1 for 1975. The farm value of these crops amounted to \$1.1 billion in 1977.

Half of the 1977 total tonnage of vegetables canned and frozen in the United States is comprised of California-grown tomatoes, 6.7 million tons out of that total of 13.3 for 13 vegetable crops. Total 1977 U.S. tomato tonnage was 7.8 million tons. Sweet corn tonnage was a distant second with 2.4 million tons produced.

Despite the threat of drought in many processing vegetable districts last year, average yields were generally good, contributing to the large volume produced. For example, California's tomato yields reached 24.1 tons/acre, sweet corn yields averaged 5.2 tons/acre across the United States, and snap beans were a respectable 2.6.

Leading Processing Crops

Tomatoes

In 1977, increased acreage and improved yields were responsible for the second largest tomato tonnage in California history. The 6.7 million tons of raw production was 8 percent less than the California 1975 record. For the entire country, 7.8 million tons were produced.

Larger packs of canned tomatoes, catsup, and paste are resulting in lower wholesale prices for these items as well as juice and puree. It appears that total supplies (pack plus carryover) of catsup and paste are at or near record high levels based on partially complete pack data from the Canners League of California. Supplies of canned tomatoes and tomato juice are also on the heavy side.

Canned tomatoes: Supply and disappearance

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
<i>Mil. cases 24/303's</i>			
Carryover	5.3	12.0	9.4
Pack	53.5	42.6	52.1
Total supply	58.8	54.6	61.5
Disappearance	46.8	45.2	

Canned tomato juice: Supply and disappearance

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
<i>Mil. cases 24/303's</i>			
Carryover	5.7	6.6	8.8
Pack	35.4	32.2	27.2
Total supply	41.1	38.8	36.0
Disappearance	34.5	30.0	

Despite higher processing costs in 1977, wholesale prices for California-packed tomato products are running slightly to substantially lower than a year earlier. Raw product costs averaged \$63.90 per ton delivered to the plant, compared with \$56.20 in 1976. As reported previously, tinplate costs for canners averaged about 7 percent higher in 1977, while the average wage rate in canneries across the United States went to \$4.71 per hour from \$4.38 a year earlier. For 1978, California canners' acreage needs may be about 15 percent less than the 276,400 acres contracted and harvested in 1977.

Wholesale prices for canned tomatoes are not expected to advance until the current heavy supply clears the market. This means that prices would remain weak at least until the size of the 1978 crop becomes apparent.

Snap Beans

Although the pack of canned snap beans was sharply larger than a year earlier, the available supply still fell short of 1976. There was a light carryover, and generally good institutional and consumer demand has kept wholesale prices mostly higher than a year earlier. With annual disappearance of beans in the 52- to 57-million-case range, another light carryover is in prospect. During this season, some shifting to more generous supplies of corn and peas may be taking place, as prices for these two items are more attractive. Snap bean exports to Europe are not a market factor this season.

Canned snap beans: Supply and disappearance

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
Mil. cases 24/303's			
Carryover	15.3	13.6	5.7
Pack	55.4	47.4	53.6
Total supply	70.7	61.0	59.3
Disappearance ...	57.1	55.3	

Stocks of frozen beans on January 1 were 135 million pounds, a tenth more than the very light supply on hand a year earlier. The current level of stocks compares with the early and mid 1960's. Thus, the supply picture for processed snap beans suggests that canners and freezers will be contracting for moderately larger acreage in 1978.

Peas

What started out as a season of burdensome supply of peas has now become a much more manageable situation from the canners' viewpoint. Shipments have been running 8 percent heavier than a year earlier, as prices in December were slightly to moderately less than a year earlier. For the past two months, relatively light supplies of frozen peas and canned snap beans have helped the canned pea market. Despite the improved market situation, canners in 1978 are not expected to increase contracting activity to any great extent. If movement for the balance of the market season holds close to other recent years, disappearance of 32 million cases would result, leaving a carryover

Canned green peas: Supply and disappearance

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
Mil. cases 24/303's			
Carryover	4.5	8.4	7.7
Pack	35.2	31.9	30.2
Total supply	39.7	40.3	37.9
Disappearance ...	31.3	32.6	

large enough to preclude any surge in 1978 packing activity.

The 1977 pack of frozen peas, 325 million pounds, was the smallest since 1960. January stocks of 228 million pounds were lower than either of the previous two seasons. In contrast with canned, frozen pea prices have been firm to strong in recent months. The institutional bulk quotation of 35 cents per pound is 7 cents more than a year earlier. A moderate increase in acreage for 1978 is likely.

Sweet Corn

A record large supply of canned corn, 66 million cases, existed at the beginning of the current marketing season. Though it was less than a percentage point more than in the 1968/69 season, this was a season that canners gladly relegated to history. December stocks of 42.8 million cases, 2 percent less than a year earlier, testify to good disappearance from canners' hands. This was achieved with a drop in list prices amounting to 60 cents to \$1.00 per case. Nonetheless, the prospect does suggest another relatively large carryover at the end of this season. Canners are likely to require less acreage in 1978, and a moderate cut-back in planting may be expected.

Canned sweet corn: Supply and disappearance

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
Mil. cases 24/303's			
Carryover	5.1	9.7	9.7
Pack	57.5	54.7	56.3
Total supply	62.6	64.4	66.0
Disappearance ...	52.9	54.7	

Stocks of frozen corn on January 1, were larger than a year earlier. Part of the reason is associated with the continually developing market for on-cob corn. Stocks of this item were sharply larger than a year earlier, but wholesale prices are holding firm at the moment. Disappearance between August 1 and December 1 was 22 percent heavier than a year earlier. Stocks of cut corn on January 1 were moderately smaller than a year earlier, and prices are holding at 32 cents per pound, compared with 28 cents a year earlier. It appears that acreage of corn for freezing could increase further in 1978. In 1977, the U.S. average yield of sweet corn for freezing exceeded 6 tons per acre for the first time.

Cucumbers for Pickles

Further slight reductions in acreage and tonnage in 1977 placed total production of cucumbers

for pickles at 628,100 tons. However, combined stocks of salted and dill types this past October 1 were 493,650 tons, 4 percent larger than last season but smaller than two years earlier.

Spinach

Spinach canning activity declined further in 1977 with only 64,000 tons used. This figure, sharply less than last year, emphasizes a further shift from canning to freezing activity in California. Canners' stocks last October 1 were a fifth smaller than a year earlier in December and wholesale prices 50 cents to \$1.00 per case higher than a year earlier.

Tonnage of spinach for freezing was about a tenth larger this past year with each of the three seasonal harvest groups—winter, spring and fall—showing an increase. January 1 stocks of spinach at 60 million pounds were moderately larger than a year earlier. While prices are slightly higher than a year earlier for consumer and institutional packs, some weakness was noted around the first of the year. Institutional chopped spinach was recently reported to be selling at 18½ to 19 cents per pound, off about a cent at the upper range. Leaf spinach quotes were holding steady at 19½ to 21 cents a pound.

Asparagus

While tonnage for canning increased sharply last year to 47,900, October canners' stocks were the smallest of record. Prices per case 24/300 California mammoth large were \$23.00 for this gourmet item, compared with \$16.60 a year earlier.

Stocks of frozen asparagus on January 1 were above a year earlier, but low by historical standards. The 1977 pack data are not available, but the Crop Reporting Board noted that 24,850 tons were used for freezing during 1977.

Beets

Although there was a sharply larger tonnage of beets available for canning this past season, current supplies are not burdensome because of a light carryover of old pack. November stocks of 7.9 million cases were below the previous two seasons, but certainly adequate for expected needs. For 1978, processors might be expected to increase acreage contracting.

Sauerkraut

One percent less cabbage was used for kraut this past season. January stocks of kraut on hand were 8.2 million case equivalent of 24/303's, a figure moderately lower than other recent seasons, when 8.5 and 8.9 million cases were reported.

Wholesale prices are about the same as a year earlier, with New York prices slightly lower and Midwest prices generally higher than in early 1977. A case of 24/303's is currently worth \$4.95-\$5.10.

Little change in raw product needs is anticipated for 1978.

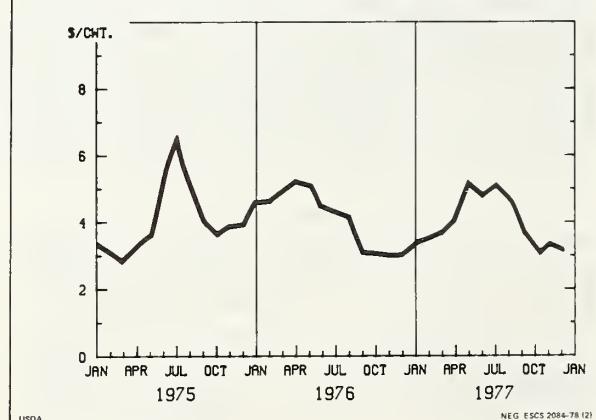
Other Frozen Vegetables

January stocks of frozen carrots were built up to 154 million pounds. This compared with 110 million pounds a year earlier, 39 percent more. Trade demand has been good and wholesale prices did move up slightly during the time before this latest report. Frozen broccoli is the best bargain in the frozen vegetable line as current stocks are at record levels for this time of year. Raw product processed in 1977 rose to 146,650 tons, 43 percent more than a year earlier. List prices are about 3 cents a pound higher than in early 1977 but frequent dealing off these prices continues according to trade sources. Cauliflower remains in relatively short supply with firm prices for the moment. Stocks on January 1 were 49 million pounds, compared with 47 the same month a year earlier.

POTATOES

Potato production in 1977 turned out to be the second largest crop ever produced in the United States—352 million cwt.—only 2 percent less than the record set in 1976. The average yield of 261 cwt. per acre was slightly higher than a year earlier. Average potato yields have tended to increase over time, with new varieties and use of higher-yielding irrigated land for potato production. This tends to keep potato prices depressed, as market needs are often exceeded in the American potato industry.

POTATOES : U.S. GROWER PRICES



Marketing the 1977 Fall Potato Crop

Even though fall potato production in 1977 was 1 percent less than the year-earlier record, the crop was not small enough to prevent depressed prices, especially for Eastern and Midwestern growers. The large export market to Europe did not exist this season, and domestic demand for dehydrated products has been sluggish. The only bright prospect, and it is only an indirect influence on grower prices, is the sustained demand for frozen potato products, especially for Grade A longs. As a result of this large crop, fourth quarter potato prices received by growers for all uses of 1977 were only \$3.17 per cwt. against \$3.12 for the same period of 1976.

As usual, the market situation is not uniform nationwide. This season, the West reduced fall production by 5 percent to 188 million cwt. This has given this area a little "breathing space," but here, too, the pressure of heavy supplies is being felt. Recent grower prices in Idaho were improved over a year ago. A limited number of open market purchases for fresh pack and processing (cellar run less dirt, rot, and serious damage) have been quoted at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per cwt. Dehydrating stock has been quoted at \$1.00 per cwt. in Idaho and Washington. On the other hand, Upper Snake River Valley, Idaho table stock count cartons of U.S. No. 1 Russets have been quoted at \$11.00, compared with \$8.00 to \$8.25 a year earlier. Western potato stocks on hand January 1 were 7 percent smaller than a year earlier.

In the Midwest, the 66.9 million cwt. fall production was 16 percent larger than last year. Yields in this area were very high. Prices to growers have been low again this year. In view of the heavy supply, the fact that prices are only slightly lower in the Red River Valley reflects a good quality crop. January 1 stocks of 37.3 million cwt. were 28 percent more than last year.

Although the Eastern crop was 3 percent smaller, prices are the poorest of all the potato areas, by comparison with a year earlier. The 1976 export market for table quality potatoes benefitted the East greatly, as it held prices much higher than would have been expected. The average December farm price for Maine potatoes was \$2.90 per cwt. compared with \$4.10 for the same month a year earlier. January f.o.b. prices for New York and Pennsylvania potatoes have been \$3.60-3.90 per cwt. against \$5.20-\$5.40 a year earlier. January 1 stocks in the East were 7 percent larger than a year earlier.

U.S. stocks of potatoes remaining to be sold as of January 1 were 176.4 million cwt. This is the largest quantity ever recorded for this date. With this large supply on hand, and reduced export demand, prices to growers are not expected to show

Table 1—Potatoes: January 1 total stocks by areas, United States

Year	Eastern States	Central States	Western States	Total ¹
Mil. cwt.				
1971	38.0	29.9	82.0	150.0
1972	38.0	34.1	79.3	151.4
1973	28.0	27.6	78.8	134.4
1974	25.3	28.0	80.3	133.7
1975	35.4	35.4	92.4	163.1
1976	26.8	28.0	104.2	159.1
1977	27.1	29.2	118.4	174.8
1978	29.1	37.3	110.0	176.4

¹ May not add to total due to rounding.

much improvement the rest of the storage season. Eastern grower prices likely will continue to average below a year earlier, but in the West, the grower price situation though not good, may continue to look a little better than last year.

Projected Use of 1977 Tonnage

Table stock sales of the 1977 crop are expected to be about the same or slightly less than a year earlier. Fresh use usually increases whenever there is a large crop, so with a crop slightly smaller than last year, a corresponding decline may be expected.

A record large quantity of the 1976 crop was used for freezing purposes. If the present trend continues, in three or four years the quantity used for these purposes will equal the amount used in the fresh form. For the current crop, further increases in frozen product use is almost certain, with strong demand and aggressive promotion of potato products by fast food franchisers. Somewhere between 95 and 100 million cwt. will likely be used for freezing this season, compared with 92 million from the previous crop.

Dehydrated potato product manufacture has slackened considerably with the loss of a considerable European export demand and a weak domestic demand as well. While 40 million cwt. of the 1976 crop were used for these products, usage

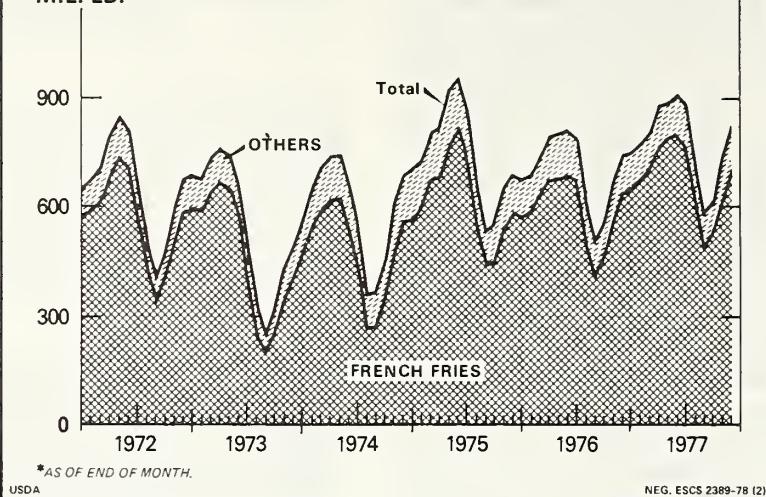
Retail potato price trends

Year	U.S. averages		
	Fresh 10 pounds	Frozen french fries 9 oz.	Dehydrated mashed 7 oz.
Cents			
1971	86.1	16.3	40.1
1972	92.6	16.6	40.7
1973	136.9	17.2	42.7
1974	166.4	22.3	50.8
1975	134.4	25.6	55.7
1976	145.9	27.5	56.7
1977	149.7	28.1	57.5

BLS data.

FROZEN POTATO STOCKS*

MIL. LB.



this current season is expected to fall to the 30-35-million-cwt. range.

No great change in chip use is expected during this 1977/78 crop year. This means that about 35 million cwt. would be used for this purpose.

With a crop this large, livestock feed will absorb a little more than usual, possibly 6 to 8 million cwt., and if the same quantity of starch and flour is manufactured, this would add another 3 million cwt. The quantity to be sold for seed might be slightly less, if growers recognize that 1977 acreage was little large for expected market needs. Seed requirements for 1976 planting took a little more

than 25 million cwt. One million cwt. less would be sufficient for 1978.

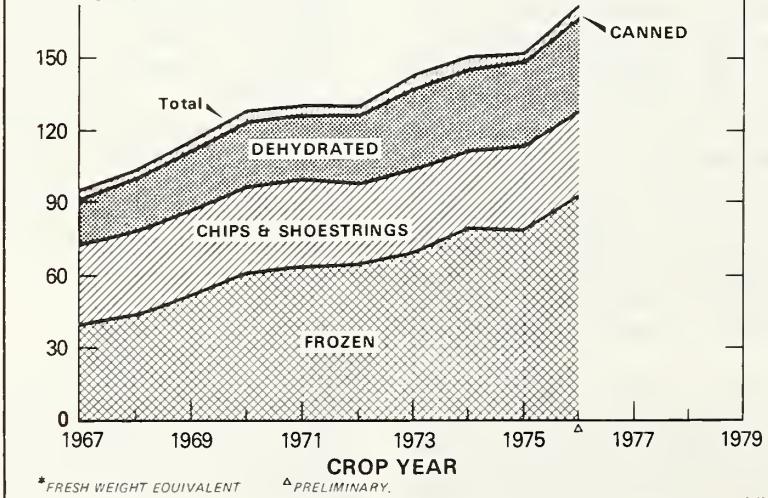
Winter and Spring Prospects

California and Florida winter potato production of 2.9 million cwt. is sharply larger than the weather-damaged crop of a year earlier. The larger winter potato crop is not expected to affect average price levels, since this seasonal group accounts for 1 percent of the United States annual output.

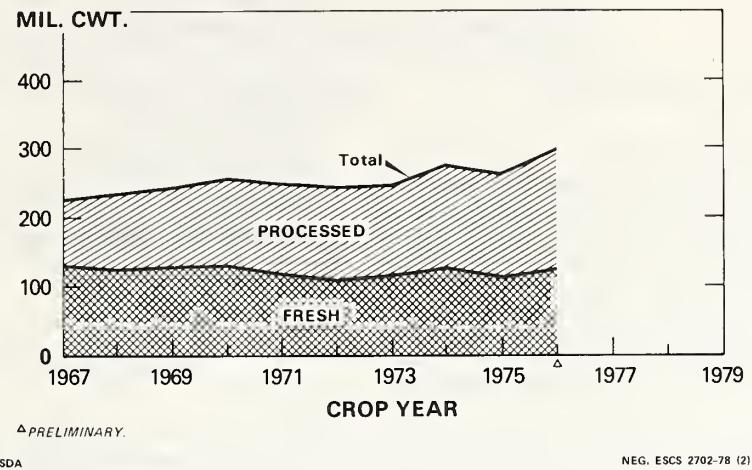
The Crop Reporting Board noted in its January report that growers of spring crop potatoes plan to

POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSED FOOD ITEMS*

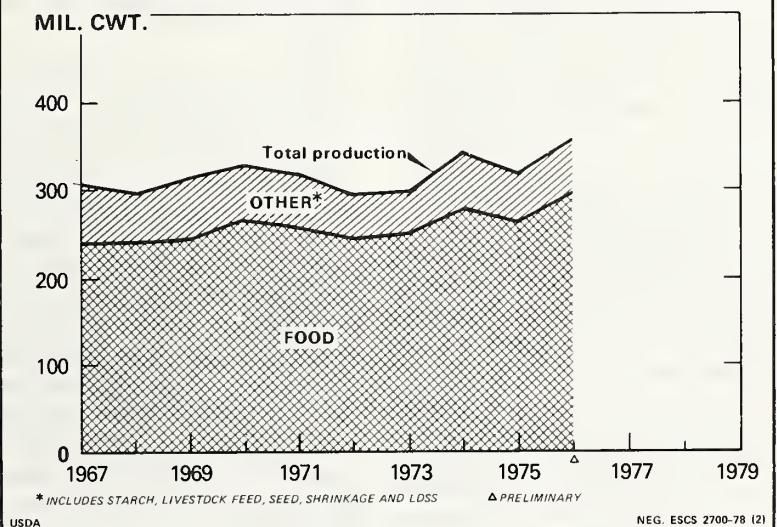
MIL. CWT.



POTATOES USED FOR FOOD - FRESH AND PROCESSED



POTATOES USED FOR FOOD AND OTHER USES



reduce acreage by 7 percent this year. California, Alabama, and North Carolina account for most of this reduction, while slight increase in Florida is expected. The severe windstorm which hit Kern County, California last December caused some damage and loss. In several instances, re-hilling of fields was necessary where seed was exposed.

The April 13 Report

On April 13 the Crop Reporting Board will release the results of a survey of growers' intentions to plant fall potatoes in 1978. A year earlier this report showed that growers were plan-

ning to reduce acreage by 4 percent. Had this been the case, a 1977 crop more in line with market needs would have resulted.

Relatively low prices for 1977 potatoes may induce growers to cut 1978 planting. For example, a cut of approximately 4-5 percent with yields the same as in 1977 would produce a tonnage of 285 to 290 million cwt., which would be in balance with projected needs at slightly higher grower prices. A larger cut would boost prices even more. Projected market needs for 1978 would translate to 1,075,000 acres harvested with an average yield of 268 cwt. per acre. During the past three years, acreage abandonment has amounted to about 35,000

acres further translating to 1,110,000 acres planted, or 4.7 percent less than last fall's planted acreage.

SWEET POTATOES

With the smallest sweet potato production since 1973 (12.5 million cwt.) and the smallest canners' carryover since August 1974 (1.5 million cases of 24/303's), prices to growers have been running from \$2.40 to \$3.30 per cwt. above the comparable period in 1976. The December grower price was \$11.30 per cwt. The month-to-month differences in prices have been increasing, and prices have been at record highs as far as the current season has progressed.

The canned sweet potato pack between July 1 and October was 2.0 million cases of 24/303's. This was only about 70 percent of the July-to-October pack in 1976. However, the July 1 to October 1 canner shipments have been equal to those of same period a year earlier—around 1.6 million cases 24/303's. If the canner shipments continue at the pace set during the July 1 to October 1 period, stocks this coming July 1 are likely to be low again, and canners will be looking to increase the pack in 1978/79.

Wholesale prices for canned sweets are sharply higher than last year with prices for all the commonly used containers \$1.50 to \$2.50 per case higher than last year. Syrup pack 6/10's have risen to \$13.75 compared with \$11.50 in January 1977. The 24/303's were \$10.50 per case, \$1.50 higher than last year this time.

Unloads of sweet potatoes at the major markets have been about 6 percent below a year earlier. And f.o.b. prices for fresh market in January 1978 were at the \$8- \$10-per-carton level, compared to about \$6.50 per carton a year earlier. This suggests a very strong demand on the fresh side as well as on the processing side. In view of this rarely occurring situation, growers may find it exceedingly attractive to expand acreage of sweet potatoes this coming spring. But, as with most farm commodities, growers often plant more than markets can absorb without sharp price reduction.

MUSHROOMS

Mushroom prices to growers began the season at record-high levels, then weakened slightly, only to pick up once more. At Kennett Square, Pa., fresh market prices to growers have held at 70 to 73 cents per pound for clean cut stock ever since the first price report of the new season beginning the

end of October. Prices to processors started out at 65-67 cents per pound, then fell to 63 cents in November, and since the first of the year resumed their gradual climb to 66 to 68 cents.

Canned mushroom imports the first 5 months (July through November) of this season came to 32.3 million pounds, about 1.5 percent heavier than last year.

There are also indications at this time that total domestic production is ahead of last year, and demand for mushrooms in the United States continues to be relatively strong although prices for canned stems and pieces have weakened recently.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Adverse weather during the harvest season in Michigan and the Red River Valley was responsible for pushing grower prices rapidly upward last fall. The U.S. average price last September was \$13.80 per cwt., and for the remainder of 1977 the comparable price was in the \$22-\$24 range.

Total dry bean production in the United States fell to 16.3 million cwt., the lowest since 1971. Most of the decline was associated with the colored classes, with pintos off by 18 percent from a year earlier. White bean production turned out 3 percent less too, largely the result of an acreage cut of great northerns in Nebraska and Idaho. Despite the State's excessive rain at harvest time, the important Michigan navy bean crop did turn out the same as a year earlier. Otherwise, their crop would have been one of the largest in years.

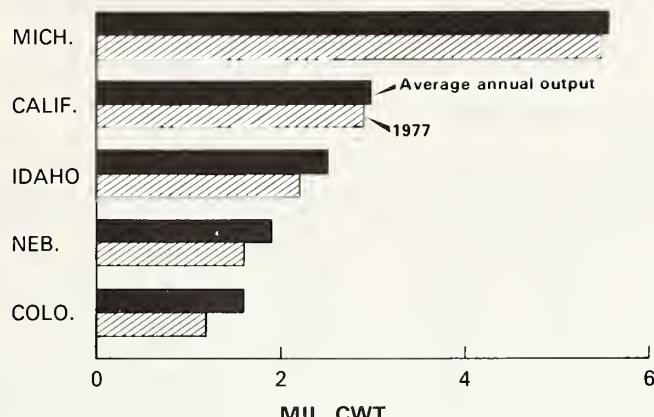
Exports of all classes September 1 to December 1 this year were 1.04 million cwt., compared with 1.06 a year earlier. With a smaller supply to move, this activity has helped sustain price levels this season. For the old year, 1976/77, total export activity was much improved—3.98 million cwt. compared with 2.72 million in 1975/76.

Price Review by Classes

With sharply smaller supplies, it is not surprising that pinto bean prices (U.S. No. 1 f.o.b. country warehouse) are about double those of a year earlier. Commonly quoted prices in early January were \$26.50 to \$27.50 per cwt. Since September, there has been some export activity in this class.

Kidney bean prices at \$37.50-\$38.50 are the highest since 1974, and according to trade sources, supplies appear relatively light this season. Production in 1977 was only moderately less than in the previous 3 years, but was nonetheless relatively high by historical standards.

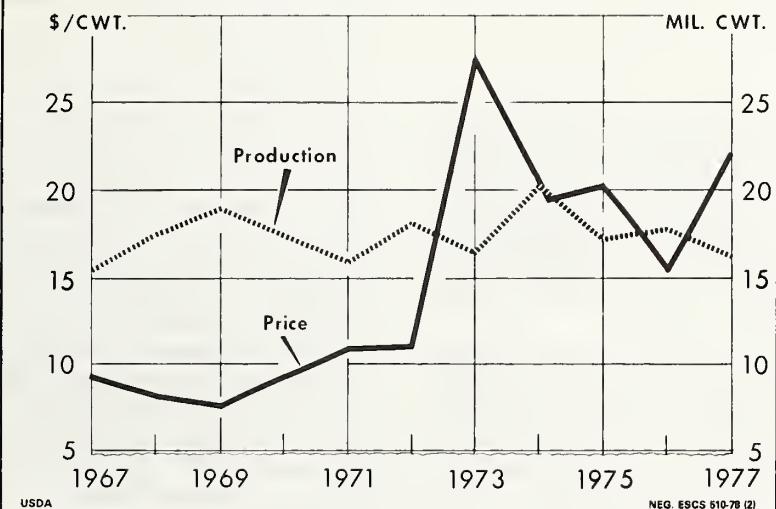
DRY BEAN OUTPUT - LEADING STATES 1977 AND AVERAGE OUTPUT-1973-76



USDA

NEG. ESCS 2357-78 (2)

DRY BEAN PRICE AND PRODUCTION



USDA

NEG. ESCS 510-78 (2)

In response to fairly high prices in 1976/77, the blackeye pea tonnage produced this past year jumped to 785,000 cwt. This has pushed current California prices down to the \$23- to-\$24-per-cwt. range, well below the \$31 of a year earlier.

Current prices for baby limas are about \$19.50 to \$20.50 per cwt., about \$1.25 higher than last year in January. Large limas are still relatively high priced at \$33.50 to \$34.50. There were no comparable quotations this time last year when the supply apparently was very scarce.

Among the white classes, Michigan navy bean prices were at \$29.00 in early January, compared with \$16.50 a year earlier. However, there are very few No. 1 grade available this season, and

Michigan State grade prime are quoted at \$24.00- \$25.00. Despite the lack of top quality beans, export activity the first three months of this shipping season (September 1 to December 1) has been brisk, with 337,000 cwt. moved against 165,000 last season.

Even with a smaller crop and higher prices, exports of great northerns the first three months of the shipping season were 218,000 cwt. compared with 196,000 a year earlier. Dealers' domestic prices in Nebraska were \$25.25 per cwt., about \$10 more than January a year earlier.

Retail price trends for dry beans, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, show that prices rose sharply in early winter, reaching 49.3 cents a

pound in December. This figure was about 6.6 cents more than a year earlier. This retail price is usually related only to navy (pea) beans. Further slight rises during 1978 may be expected.

downward pressure on prices. Per capita consumption in 1977 is currently estimated at 6.0 pounds, down from 6.7 in 1974, and now, close to the lowest of recent record—5.9 in 1971.

Table 2—U.S. exports of dried edible beans by country of destination

Country	Marketing year beginning		
	Sept. 1974	Sept. 1975	Sept. 1976
1,000 cwt.			
United Kingdom	367.9 ¹	528.1 ¹	592.1 ¹
Japan	375.4	220.4	637.2
Venezuela	96.7	77.2	277.4
Mexico	1,790.0	214.5	132.4
France	242.2	161.5	264.9
Netherlands	243.0	291.6	305.9
Dominican Republic	5.6	211.0	4.2
Australia	114.2	47.6	40.9
Algeria	371.8	106.9	134.4
Other countries	1,510.4	857.8	1,587.7
Total U.S. exports ...	5,117.2	2,716.6	3,977.1

¹ Includes Northern Ireland.

Outlook for 1978

With the export market off to a reasonably good start, and with a relatively light crop to be marketed, there is the likelihood of firm to stronger prices for the rest of the market season. The relatively favorable market can be expected to stimulate 1978 planting activity, especially in view of low prices for other crop alternatives. It would be easy to overplant beans in 1978.

The domestic use of dry beans has weakened since 1974. Although there have been successively smaller crops each year since 1974, one cannot conclude there has been any real shortage which would restrict use. Domestic use has been slack, and a large 1978 crop would once again put severe

DRY EDIBLE PEAS AND LENTILS

The 1-million-cwt. crop of dry peas for 1977 turned out less than half the light harvest of 1976, and prices have been high ever since. Lentil production fell to 406,000 cwt. and that, too, was less than half the 1976 figure. Lentil prices in the \$40-\$41-per-cwt. range are record high, while green peas have been selling in the \$15.00-\$16.50 range, well below the \$30.00 figures of early 1974 when supplies were exhausted. Nonetheless, there are enough peas and lentils for domestic use at advanced price levels.

With the reduced supply, export activity has been sharply curtailed. For the first three months of the 1977/78 shipping season, exports of 26 million pounds were only 45 percent of the year earlier. Lentil exports were off even more; they were only 16 percent of the prior year.

In addition, a new flour product derived from peas can now be prepared on a commercial scale. One planned use is for mixing with wheat flour to make a high protein bread. The pea industry hopes this will increase the demand for dry peas which are important in the crop rotation program which includes the wheat grown in the Palouse Area of Washington and Idaho.

Without question, there will be expanded 1978 plantings of peas and lentils. With normal weather, prices should be responding by late summer. Although these are primarily export commodities, there is some new interest in domestic use of peas, and perhaps, too, an even greater new interest in the quicker cooking lentils.

Table 3—Beans dry edible: Production by commercial classes, 1972-77

Class	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977 ¹
<i>1,000 cwt.</i>						
White:						
Pea, navy	6,340	4,742	6,709	4,140	4,846	4,951
Great northern	1,499	1,771	2,083	1,409	1,767	1,438
Small white ²	397	421	666	239	335	339
Yelloweye	(³)	(^{3})	(^{3})	(^{3})	(^{3})	(^{3})
Total, White	8,236	6,934	9,458	5,788	6,948	6,728
Colored:						
Pink	624	804	1,030	1,154	990	753
Pinto	5,610	4,862	4,776	6,367	5,792	4,499
Red kidney	819	1,128	1,510	1,477	1,377	1,354
Small red	371	318	448	494	437	305
Cranberry	249	194	165	222	257	396
Black turtle soup	144	133	192	212	157	119
Total, colored	7,817	7,259	8,121	9,926	9,010	7,426
Lima:						
Large	471	533	670	408	522	523
Baby	317	378	574	416	378	460
Total, Lima	788	911	1,244	824	900	983
Other:						
Blackeye	801	766	1,092	499	607	785
Garbanzo	60	98	83	119	46	63
Other ⁴	281	306	331	286	275	303
Total, other	1,142	1,170	1,506	904	928	1,151
United States	17,983	16,274	20,329	17,442	17,786	16,288

¹ Preliminary. ² Includes flat small white. ³ Includes in "Other". ⁴ Does not include beans grown for garden seed.

Data from Crop Production, SRS, USDA.

Table 4—Vegetables and melons for fresh market: Commercial acreage, production, and value for principal crops, 1975, 1976, and 1977¹

	Harvested acreage			Production			Per cwt.	Dollars	Value	Total
	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977				
	1,000 acres			1,000 cwt.						
Artichokes ²	10.2	10.6	10.8	734	806	713	14.40	19.30	11,847	11,568
Asparagus ²	102.6	92.6	85.8	2,141	2,302	2,201	28.70	31.30	61,436	72,122
Beans, snap	84.2	85.1	77.6	3,179	3,126	2,868	19.60	20.80	62,303	62,253
Broccoli ²	49.6	52.8	59.1	3,940	4,289	5,379	15.10	15.90	59,444	68,204
Brussels sprouts ²	5.8	4.9	5.4	696	588	648	17.50	18.50	12,205	10,870
Cabbage ³	91.9	87.4	81.4	20,190	18,965	18,953	4.64	5.02	7.61	106,464
Cantaloups	75.1	75.0	79.5	9,774	10,005	10,781	10.50	11.00	10.60	102,442
Carrots ²	70.2	73.4	72.7	19,073	19,247	20,011	6.93	5.95	7.58	132,196
Cauliflower ²	32.0	33.6	34.4	2,998	3,081	3,241	15.20	16.80	19.80	45,504
Celeri ²	31.8	33.7	33.6	15,826	16,904	16,608	7.46	7.89	8.92	118,122
Corn sweet	177.5	179.5	169.3	14,081	14,370	13,221	8.41	8.18	8.02	118,451
Cucumbers	47.4	49.1	51.3	4,840	5,078	5,503	10.40	9.66	10.40	50,292
Eggplant	3.4	3.4	3.1	701	702	635	10.40	10.40	11.40	7,289
Escarole	7.6	7.6	7.8	1,092	1,110	1,008	12.10	12.10	13.195	15,483
Garlic ²	10.8	8.8	10.4	1,404	924	1,144	13.10	13.00	14.30	18,415
Honeydews	12.6	14.0	15.4	2,395	2,346	2,562	9.31	10.60	9.81	22,286
Lettuce ²	228.8	225.0	228.7	53,658	53,955	55,423	6.82	8.68	7.91	366,167
Onions ^{2,3}	103.1	109.2	31,418	35,197	33,096	9,35	6.92	7.63	266,230	216,356
Peppers, green ²	50.5	53.8	55.6	5,106	5,255	5,393	16.60	16.80	16.70	84,892
Spinach	9.0	9.0	9.7	629	685	781	16.40	17.80	17.20	10,305
Tomatoes	124.3	127.8	124.8	20,945	21,730	19,656	18.60	19.20	21.20	390,353
Watermelons	210.7	234.2	227.4	23,904	25,910	26,371	4.00	3.25	3.39	95,711
Total	1,539.1	1,570.5	1,549.0	238,724	246,575	246,196	9.03	9.16	9.77	2,155,349
										2,405,377

¹ Includes Hawaii. ² Includes quantities used for processing. ³ Value excludes production not marketed.

Table 5—Vegetables, fresh: Representative wholesale prices (wholesale lot) sales at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1 when available) indicated periods, 1976, 1977, and 1978

Market, commodity and State of origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month						
		1976-77			1977-78			
		Nov. 16	Dec. 14	Jan. 11	Nov. 15	Dec. 13	Jan. 10	
<i>Dollars</i>								
NEW YORK								
Beans, snap								
round green type (Florida)	Bu. hamper and crt.	11.50	7.25	11.50	8.50	5.50	11.50	
Broccoli, bunched (California)	14's crt.	8.00	9.00	9.25	6.25	6.50	8.00	
Cabbage, domestic round type (Florida)	1-3/4 bu. crt.	---	---	9.00	---	---	---	
Cabbage, Danish type (New York)	50-lb. sack	4.25	4.50	7.25	3.38	3.25	3.25	
Carrots, topped, washed (California)	48-1-lb. film bag ctn.	9.00	10.75	14.00	8.75	9.25	10.25	
Celery, Pascal (Florida)	2-4 doz. 16 in. crt.	10.00	7.25	13.50	---	---	---	
Celery, Pascal (California)	2-3 doz. 16 in. crt.	12.25	9.00	15.50	9.50	7.25	13.00	
Corn, sweet, yellow (Florida)	4 1/2 - doz. crt.	5.00	5.12	7.00	6.00	4.75	6.25	
Cucumbers, (Florida)	Bu. Basket	13.50	9.50	---	6.75	7.50	---	
Lettuce, Iceberg type (Arizona)	2 doz. ctn.	7.25	6.75	9.25	9.75	5.25	10.00	
Onions, yellow, medium (New York)	50-lb. sack	3.85	4.65	---	4.00	4.00	---	
Peppers, green, California Wonder								
(Florida)	Bu. basket	9.50	6.25	12.50	7.50	6.25	7.25	
Spinach, savoy type (Texas)	Bu. basket	6.50	8.50	8.50	---	8.00	7.25	
CHICAGO								
Beans, snap								
round green type (Florida)	Bu. hamper	13.00	8.25	13.50	10.75	7.25	13.00	
Broccoli (California)	14's crt. and ctn.	7.75	7.25	8.25	6.90	6.25	6.20	
Cabbage, domestic round type (Texas)	1-3/4 bu. crt.	---	---	9.50	5.50	4.75	---	
Carrots, topped, washed (California)	48-1-lb. film bag,							
	mesh master	8.25	9.75	---	5.25	8.40	---	
Cauliflower (California)	Film wrapped 12's ctn.	9.25	7.75	12.50	8.75	8.00	10.00	
Celery, Pascal type (California)	2-3 doz. 16 in. crt.	11.00	7.00	13.50	9.00	6.60	12.00	
Corn, sweet, yellow (Florida)	5 doz. crt.	5.50	5.00	6.00	5.25	---	7.00	
Cucumbers (Florida)	Bu. basket	20.00	14.00	---	6.75	---	---	
Lettuce, Iceberg type (Arizona)	2 doz. heads, ctn.	---	5.75	7.75	8.40	5.75	---	
Onions, yellow, large (Idaho)	50 lb. sack	3.90	5.38	5.87	5.00	4.75	4.75	
Onions, yellow, medium (Midwestern)	50 lb. sack	3.55	4.00	4.75	---	4.13	4.00	
Peppers, green, California Wonder								
type, large (Florida)	Bu. basket	9.25	8.50	13.50	4.50	7.25	7.60	
Tomatoes, greenhouse, medium								
(Midwestern)	8 lb. Bu. basket	4.00	---	---	---	3.00	10.50	

Weekly summary of terminal market prices, AMS, USDA, Market News Report.

Table 6—Vegetables, fresh: Average f.o.b. shipping point prices, per hundredweight, United States, indicated periods, 1976, 1977, and 1978

Commodity	1976		1977			1978	
	November	December	October	November	December	December 1 - 15	
	<i>Dollars</i>						
Beans, snap	22.10	17.40	22.90	20.60	21.30	19.90	31.30
Broccoli	21.20	23.10	---	---	---	---	---
Cabbage	6.64	8.55	8.89	7.10	6.52	6.89	7.32
Cantaloups	9.44	10.00	10.50	14.10	---	---	---
Carrots	9.96	11.00	11.50	9.95	9.39	9.78	10.00
Cauliflower	20.00	26.00	---	---	---	---	---
Celery	9.01	7.60	7.64	7.51	6.23	6.43	10.30
Corn, sweet	7.48	7.40	9.08	9.08	8.15	7.67	12.50
Cucumbers	17.30	14.50	10.20	8.60	9.44	8.82	9.80
Lettuce	8.68	7.43	8.86	12.50	7.01	7.40	10.50
Onions	5.51	6.97	6.51	6.21	5.37	5.54	5.14
Peppers, green	25.40	19.60	17.90	17.70	16.00	15.10	19.60
Spinach	22.50	22.50	---	---	---	---	---
Tomatoes	26.10	20.30	19.40	27.10	18.60	18.80	23.60

Agricultural Prices, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 7—Vegetables, commercial for fresh market: Index numbers (unadjusted) of prices received by farmers, United States, by months¹

(1967=100)

Period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
1947-49	89	94	96	95	85	66	64	60	59	63	74	76	77
1950-54	87	82	78	91	82	75	72	62	57	66	77	83	76
1955-59	83	90	91	89	84	77	72	63	64	70	78	79	78
Year													
1960	99	95	87	88	90	74	76	62	61	67	73	77	79
1961	74	74	76	95	83	90	81	65	65	65	76	74	76
1962	94	102	125	109	107	84	73	63	64	66	75	85	87
1963	102	95	82	83	78	88	85	65	62	70	91	94	83
1964	100	103	98	89	83	90	80	76	76	78	101	87	88
1965	78	83	97	107	127	103	84	77	78	87	89	87	91
1966	110	115	101	108	94	99	115	102	91	92	101	95	102
1967	100	94	96	110	104	128	109	84	80	88	101	104	100
1968	119	117	125	129	105	98	92	86	92	91	113	118	107
1969	104	109	113	110	118	97	97	94	90	111	151	130	110
1970	130	123	123	109	121	110	101	96	111	95	102	95	110
1971	111	116	149	135	126	127	119	101	99	121	172	138	126
1972	155	131	115	134	122	123	116	125	129	112	147	139	129
1973	155	154	170	200	190	190	179	131	125	122	127	129	156
1974	136	162	131	151	170	171	151	140	140	163	167	146	152
1975	169	169	166	177	169	204	178	157	159	159	174	189	173
1976	191	163	179	177	130	156	169	153	177	190	186	172	170
1977 ²	235	267	270	199	185	159	167	162	168	183	210	166	198

¹ The index for commercial fresh market vegetables was revised, beginning January 1958, to reflect changes in the method of reporting prices. All prices now are reported on a f.o.b. basis. ² Preliminary.

Agricultural Prices, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 8—Vegetables for commercial processing: Acreage, production, and season average price per ton, 1975, 1976, and 1977

Commodity	Harvested acreage			Production			Price per ton		
	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977
1,000 acres									
Asparagus	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	63	69	73	501.00	536.00	639.66
Beans, lima ¹									
Canning	31	23	22	30	19	20	294.80	251.00	283.20
Freezing	46	25	38	66	36	55	333.60	306.05	363.86
Beans, snap									
Canning	224	191	200	531	467	519	151.70	138.10	141.10
Freezing	50	46	57	135	124	157	160.60	140.60	145.90
Beets	18	14	14	231	157	206	38.20	38.50	38.70
Cabbage for kraut	12	11	10	240	232	230	31.40	31.20	30.50
Corn, sweet ²									
Canning	381	340	321	1,644	1,555	1,580	49.40	45.40	45.80
Freezing	128	121	128	749	678	774	62.70	54.70	54.10
Cucumbers for pickles	140	128	124	674	634	628	128.60	125.80	126.20
Peas, green ¹									
Canning	287	262	221	348	316	297	221.00	203.90	208.00
Freezing	151	131	131	222	198	194	214.10	190.50	200.80
Spinach									
Canning	15	13	10	91	79	64	68.63	72.26	74.48
Freezing	9	9	10	68	82	90	59.23	59.18	65.03
Tomatoes	384	309	346	8,504	6,472	7,773	63.20	58.00	64.10
Broccoli	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	95	103	147	253.00	250.00	265.00
Carrots	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	325	337	414	43.60	39.20	42.10
Cauliflower	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	62	54	61	169.00	173.00	271.00
Total ³	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	14,079	11,613	13,282	2,843.76	2,713.39	3,059.53

¹ Production and price on a "shelled" basis. ² Corn in the husk. ³ May not add to total due to rounding.

N.A. Not available.

Vegetable—Processing, annual summary, SRS, USDA.

Table 9—Vegetables, frozen: Cold storage holdings and indicated disappearance, September 1 to December 31

Commodity	December 31			September 1-December 31 net change		
	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹
<i>Million pounds</i>						
Asparagus	9	8	10	-8	-9	-7
Beans, lima:						
Forkhook	35	23	24	17	-3	11
Baby	79	54	75	36	11	54
Total	114	77	99	53	8	65
Beans, snap:						
Regular	148	84	86	-22	-39	-22
French style	48	39	49	-8	-11	-8
Total	196	123	135	-30	-50	-30
Broccoli:						
Spears	47	28	50	-5	-10	1
Chopped and cuts	33	24	51	-6	-9	-1
Total	80	52	101	-11	-19	(³)
Brussels sprouts	49	36	35	30	19	30
Carrots:						
Diced	130	76	106	49	51	89
Other	(⁴)	35	48	(⁴)	4	18
Total	130	111	154	49	55	107
Cauliflower	66	47	49	25	15	29
Corn, sweet:						
cut	250	258	223	120	124	77
on-cob	115	144	203	75	87	112
Total	365	402	426	195	211	189
Mixed vegetables	37	33	37	3	(³)	8
Okra	29	23	36	-6	-8	-3
Onions:						
Rings	11	12	10	3	(³)	2
Other	12	15	17	-1	(³)	1
Total	23	27	27	2	(³)	3
Peas, Blackeyed	13	12	14	1	1	3
Peas, green	250	230	228	-148	-155	-124
Peas and carrots	12	12	11	1	1	(³)
Spinach	55	56	60	-39	-46	-34
Southern greens	32	30	34	7	3	-8
Other vegetables	199	174	186	32	12	34
Total vegetables ²	1,662	1,453	1,642	155	32	277
Potatoes:						
French fried	570	649	724	132	236	241
Other potato products	112	101	113	14	6	21
Total frozen potatoes	682	750	837	146	242	262
Grand Total ²	2,344	2,203	2,479	301	273	540

¹ Preliminary. ² May not add to total due to rounding. ³ Less than .50. ⁴ Reported separately beginning Feb. 1, 1976.

Cold storage, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 10—Fresh Vegetables: Retail price, marketing margin, and farm value per unit, sold in New York City, indicated months, 1976 and 1977

Commodity, month, and retail unit	Retail price	Marketing Margin		Farm Value ^{1, 2}	
		Absolute	Percentage of retail value	Absolute	Percentage of retail value
	Cents	Cents	Percent	Cents	Percent
Carrots (Pound)					
November 1977	30.6	19.9	65	10.7	35
October 1977	29.9	19.2	64	10.7	36
November 1976	30.6	19.7	64	10.9	36
Celery (Pound)					
November 1977	34.3	24.1	70	10.2	30
October 1977	30.4	24.6	81	5.8	19
November 1976	29.8	22.8	76	7.0	24
Lettuce (Head)					
November 1977	54.3	39.7	73	14.6	27
October 1977	61.4	39.0	64	22.4	36
November 1976	65.1	44.7	69	20.4	31
Onions, dry yellow (Pound)					
November 1977	21.8	14.4	66	7.4	34
October 1977	21.8	14.4	66	7.4	34
November 1976	20.3	12.9	64	7.4	36
Potatoes, round white (Pound)					
November 1977	14.3	9.9	69	4.4	31
October 1977	14.2	9.7	68	4.5	32
November 1976	14.1	9.4	67	4.7	33
Potatoes, Russet (Pound)					
November 1977	20.0	14.5	72	5.5	28
October 1977	20.5	14.7	72	5.8	28
November 1976	19.2	13.8	72	5.4	28
Sweetpotatoes (Pound)					
November 1977	29.8	15.1	51	14.7	49
October 1977	30.3	16.1	53	14.2	47
November 1976	25.2	15.5	62	9.7	38

¹ For quantity of product equivalent to retail unit sold to consumers: Because of waste and spoilage during marketing, equivalent quantity exceeds retail unit. ² Production areas: Carrots-California, Celery-California, Lettuce-California, Onions-New York, Potatoes, round white-New York, Potatoes, Russet-Idaho; Sweetpotatoes-North Carolina.

Table 11—Fresh vegetables: 1977 representative truck rates for selected items¹

Commodity, area, and city	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<i>Dollars per package</i>												
Carrots (48/1-lb film)												
California points to: ²												
Chicago	2.30	2.92	2.46	2.92	NA	2.71	2.79	2.57	2.29	2.43	2.43	2.46
Los Angeles .....	.50	.50	.50	.50	.65	.65	.65	.65	.65	.65	.65	.53
New York City	3.07	3.69	3.23	3.69	NA	3.57	3.71	3.43	3.14	3.29	30.0	3.23
Seattle	1.38	1.69	1.54	1.69	NA	1.21	1.36	1.43	1.43	1.43	1.43	1.54
Rio Grande Valley, Texas to:												
Chicago	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---	---	---	---	---	---
New York City	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---	---	---	---	---	---
Celery (wirebound crate)												
Southern California to:												
Chicago	2.20	2.70	2.55	2.60	2.65	2.90	2.90	2.82	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
Los Angeles .....	.38	.38	.38	.38	.38	.38	.38	.38	.38	.38	.38	.38
New York City	2.90	4.40	3.48	3.88	3.88	4.12	4.30	3.90	3.38	3.75	3.58	3.62
Seattle	1.25	1.90	1.55	1.55	1.45	1.52	1.72	1.65	1.50	1.38	1.45	1.45
Southern Florida to:												
Atlanta	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.40	1.40	---	---	---	---	---	1.50
Chicago	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.90	1.90	---	---	---	---	---	2.00
New York City	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.90	1.90	---	---	---	---	---	1.90
Washington, D. C.	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.70	1.70						1.80
Corn (wirebound crate)												
Southern Florida to:												
Boston	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.50	1.50	---	---	---	---	---	---
Chicago	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.55	1.55	---	---	---	---	---	---
Los Angeles	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.45	1.45	---	---	---	---	---	---
New York City	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cucumbers (1½ bu crate)												
Southern Florida to:												
Chicago	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	2.00	---	---	---	---	2.00	2.00
New York City	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.90	---	---	---	---	1.90	1.90
Lettuce (24-head ctn.)												
California points to: ²												
Atlanta	2.00	2.50	1.75	2.50	2.12	2.50	2.50	2.63	2.13	2.25	2.19	1.75
Chicago	1.87	2.37	2.00	2.37	2.12	2.38	2.44	2.25	2.00	2.13	2.13	2.00
Dallas	1.50	1.37	1.06	1.37	1.38	1.75	1.88	1.75	1.88	1.50	1.44	1.06
Los Angeles .....	.40	.40	.40	.40	.45	.45	.45	.45	.45	.45	.45	.43
New York City	2.50	3.00	2.63	3.00	2.75	3.13	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.88	2.63	2.63
Onions dry (50-lb. sack)												
Rio Grande Valley, Texas to:												
Atlanta	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---	---	---	---	---
Chicago	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---	---	---	---	---
New York City	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---	---	---	---	---
Potatoes (100 lb. sack)												
Idaho Falls, Idaho to:												
Atlanta	3.38	3.38	3.38	3.38	---	---	---	---	3.38	3.38	3.38	3.38
Chicago	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	---	---	---	---	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55
Los Angeles	1.25	1.28	1.28	1.28	---	---	---	---	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
New York City	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	---	---	---	---	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Presque Isle, Maine to:												
Boston .....	.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	---	---	1.00	1.00	1.00	.90
New York City	1.30	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	---	---	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.40
Tomatoes (20-lb. ctn.)												
Southern Florida to:												
Chicago .....	.70	.70	.70	.70	80	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
New York City .....	.65	.65	.65	.65	.75	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

¹ Reported from a sample of shippers and/or truck brokers in specified areas for shipments during the first week of month.² Imperial Valley: Jan.-Apr., Dec. Salinas-Watsonville: May-Nov.

NA - not available.

Table 12—Potatoes, Irish: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, 1975, 1976, and 1977

Seasonal group	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹
	1,000 acres			Cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
Winter	14.3	14.4	13.4	202	207	199	2,887	2,984	2,660
Spring	84.1	98.4	91.4	237	251	250	19,958	24,722	22,870
Summer	115.5	118.7	114.6	182	190	192	21,018	22,541	22,053
Fall									
8 Eastern	210.2	199.9	197.9	231	254	250	48,499	50,734	49,380
8 Central	273.2	301.8	317.3	200	191	211	54,718	57,718	66,912
8 Western	566.7	641.3	614.4	309	310	306	175,174	198,975	188,135
Total, fall	1,050.1	1,143.0	1,129.6	265	269	269	278,391	307,427	304,427
United States	1,264.0	1,374.5	1,349.0	255	260	261	322,254	357,674	352,010

¹ Preliminary.

Crop Production, annual Summary, SRS.

Table 13—Sweetpotatoes: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, 1975, 1976, and 1977

Group and State	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹
	1,000 acres			Cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
Central Atlantic ²	10.5	10.4	9.6	145	140	125	1,523	1,456	1,200
Lower Atlantic ³	39.3	41.4	41.3	131	126	129	5,135	5,213	5,320
Central ⁴	59.8	58.4	54.2	93	96	89	5,545	5,585	4,826
California	7.3	7.6	7.8	140	155	150	1,022	1,178	1,170
United States	116.9	117.8	112.9	113	114	111	13,225	13,432	12,516

¹ Preliminary. ² New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia. ³ North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. ⁴ Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas.

Crop Production, annual summary, SRS, USDA.

Table 14—Potatoes: Prices f.o.b. shipping points per hundredweight, U.S. No. 1 grade or better, indicated periods, 1976, 1977, and 1978

Shipping point and variety	1976-77			1977-78		
	November 13	December 11	January 15	November 12	December 10	January 14
<i>Dollars</i>						
Maine						
Round whites	---	---	---	---	---	---
Long Island, New York						
Round whites	4.50	4.50	6.26	4.38	3.86	3.90
New York, Upstate						
Round whites	5.00	5.02	6.32	4.76	4.20	4.26
Michigan						
Round whites	---	3.82	4.84	---	---	---
Wisconsin						
Round whites	---	3.38	---	6.50	2.90	2.88
Washington						
Russets	4.54	4.59	4.38	---	---	4.38
Colorado						
Reds	4.25	4.13	4.13	4.63	4.63	4.63
Idaho						
Russets 2" or 4 oz. min. . .	5.00	5.00	5.40	5.40	4.95	5.48

F.O.B. prices are simple averages of the range of daily prices for the week ended on indicated date.

Compiled from Market News Service reports.

Table 15—Canned vegetables: commercial pack and canners' seasonal supply, shipments to January 1, stocks January 1, seasonal shipments, selected commodities

Commodity and season	Carryover	Pack	Seasonal supply	Shipments to January 1	Stocks January 1	Total seasonal shipments
<i>Mil. cases 24/303's</i>						
Beans, lima						
1974-75 .....	.2	2.5	2.7	1.5	1.3	2.5
1975-76 .....	.2	3.7	3.9	1.5	2.5	2.9
1976-77	1.0	2.8	3.8	1.3	2.4	3.1
1977-78 .....	.7	2.7	3.4	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Beans, snap						
1974-75	5.2	62.3	67.5	33.2	34.3	52.2
1975-76	15.3	55.4	70.7	31.0	39.8	57.1
1976-77	13.6	47.4	61.0	30.4	30.5	55.3
1977-78	5.7	53.6	59.3	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Corn, sweet						
1974-75	3.9	46.4	50.3	26.7	23.6	45.2
1975-76	5.1	57.5	62.6	26.5	36.1	52.9
1976-77	9.7	54.7	64.4	25.6	38.8	54.7
1977-78	9.7	56.3	66.0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Peas, green						
1974-75	1.5	33.1	34.6	19.9	14.7	30.1
1975-76	4.5	35.2	39.7	19.0	20.7	31.3
1976-77	8.4	31.9	40.3	18.6	21.7	32.6
1977-78	7.7	30.2	37.9	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

N.A.—Not available.

National Canners Association.

Table 16—Sweetpotatoes: Prices f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale price at New York and Chicago, indicated periods, 1976, 1977, and 1978

Item	State	Week ended						
		1976-77			1977-78			
		Nov. 20	Dec. 10	Jan. 15	Nov. 19	Dec. 10	Jan. 14	
<i>Dollars</i>								
F.O.B. shipping points:								
Porto Rico, cured (50 lb. ctn. & crt., U.S. No. 1)	S.W. Louisiana Eastern N. Carolina	6.58 5.75	6.58 5.63	6.63 5.75	9.75 8.13	9.75 8.25	9.75 8.50	
Jewels (50 lb. ctn. & crt., U.S. No. 1)								
Tuesday nearest mid-month								
1976-77						1977-78		
Nov. 16	Dec. 14	Jan. 11	Nov. 15	Dec. 13	Jan. 10			
<i>Dollars</i>								
Terminal markets								
New York								
Porto Rico cured (50 lb. ctn.)	N. Carolina Louisiana	6.00	6.75	6.75	---	---	---	
Chicago		7.75	8.25	8.37	12.00	---	---	
Porto Rico cured (50 lb. crt.)								

F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the range of daily prices, compiled from Market News Service reports. The market prices are representative prices for Tuesday of each week and are submitted by the Market News Service representative at each market.

Table 17—United States average prices received by farmers per hundredweight for important field crops, indicated periods, 1976, 1977, and 1978

Commodity	1976	1977				1978
	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	Oct. 15	Nov. 15	Dec. 15	Jan. 15
<i>Dollars</i>						
Potatoes	3.15	3.44	3.12	3.21	3.01	3.21
Sweetpotatoes ..	8.00	7.78	7.99	9.49	11.30	11.90
Beans, dry edible	14.50	14.10	22.20	24.10	22.80	21.60
Peas, dry	10.20	11.10	15.50	15.80	16.10	15.40

Agricultural Prices, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 18—Beans, dry edible: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, 1975, 1976, and 1977¹

States and Classes	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production ²		
	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977
	<i>1,000 acres</i>						<i>Pounds</i>		
Michigan	520.0	545.0	480.0	900	1,000	1,150	4,732.0	5,450.0	5,520.0
New York	47.0	37.0	32.0	1,130	1,070	1,100	531.0	396.0	352.0
Northwest ³	503.0	520.0	415.5	1,465	1,379	1,452	7,370.0	7,169.0	6,031.0
Southwest ⁴	230.0	210.5	163.5	880	886	862	2,023.0	1,866.0	1,409.0
California									
Large Lima	24.0	35.0	31.0	1,700	1,490	1,690	408.0	522.0	523.0
Baby Lima	20.0	21.0	22.0	2,080	1,800	2,090	416.0	378.0	460.0
Other	110.0	123.0	113.0	1,610	1,545	1,719	1,782.0	1,900.0	1,943.0
Total California	154.0	179.0	166.0	1,692	1,564	1,763	2,606.0	2,800.0	2,926.0
Other States	12.1	7.8	5.9	1,488	1,346	847	180.0	105.0	50.0
United States	1,466.1	1,499.3	1,262.9	1,190	1,186	1,290	17,442.0	17,786.0	16,288.0

¹ Includes beans grown for seed. ² Cleaned basis. ³ Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Washington, Minnesota, and North Dakota. ⁴ Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. N.A. = not available.

Crop Production, annual summary, SRS, USDA.

Table 19—Beans, dry edible: Production in selected States, by major types, United States, 1977 and total by types 1976

Type	Michigan	Idaho	Wyoming	Nebraska	Washington	Colorado	New York	California	Other ¹	Total	
										1977 ³	1976
<i>1,000 cwt.</i>											
Peas, navy	4,663	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	288	4,951	4,846
Great northern	---	387	---	975	64	---	---	---	12	1,438	1,767
Pinto	62	785	316	545	91	1,243	---	---	1,457	4,499	5,792
Red kidney	300	102	---	---	---	---	264	638	50	1,354	1,377
Small red	---	189	---	---	116	---	---	---	---	305	437
Large Lima	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	523	---	523	522
Baby Lima	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	460	---	460	378
Small white ²	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	251	88	339	335
Blackeye	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	785	---	785	607
Other	495	702	---	30	38	2	88	269	10	1,634	1,725
U.S. total	5,520	2,165	316	1,550	309	1,245	352	2,926	1,905	16,288	17,786

¹ Includes Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Utah. ² Includes flat small white. ³ Preliminary.

Crop Production, annual summary, SRS, USDA.

Table 20—Peas, dry field: Acreage, yield per acre, and production 1975, 1976, and 1977¹

State	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977
	<i>1,000 acres</i>						<i>Pounds</i>		
Idaho	69.0	48.0	67.0	1,390	1,720	840	959	826	563
Washington	117.0	77.0	100.0	1,485	1,720	460	1,737	1,324	460
Oregon ²	2.5	---	---	1,400	---	---	35	---	---
United States	188.5	125.0	167.0	1,449	1,720	613	2,731	2,150	1,023

¹ Includes peas grown for seed and cannery peas harvested dry. ² Discontinued after 1975.

Crop Production, annual summary, SRS, USDA.

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